

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06995 181718Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /060 W

----- 101573

R 181530Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9365

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN DEFENSE PLANS

REF: USNATO 6493

ON DECEMBER 17, MISSION RECEIVED COPY OF "PERSONAL" LETTER WHICH  
SYG LUNS SENT TO TIALIAN MOD FORLANI ON DEC 2, REPEAT DEC 2.  
MISSION TRANSLATION OF LETTER FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MINISTER:

YOU ARE DOUBTLESS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT, BY VIRTUE OF THE  
EXISTING CONSULTATION PROCEDURES, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE  
ITALIAN GENERAL STAFF MADE, IN APRIL 1974, A PRESENTATION TO  
THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF A DRAFT BILL CONCERNING A  
REDUCTION OF THE DURATION OF COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE WHICH  
THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SUBMIT TO PARLIAMENT FOR  
APPROVAL.

THIS PRESENTATION MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE CONSULTATION  
PROCESS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE MILITARY AS WELL AS IN THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 06995 181718Z

POLITICAL FORA OF NATO AND WHICH REACHED ITS CONCLUSION IN  
THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON 21 NOV 1974. ON THIS  
OCCASION, THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE TOOK UP FOR CON-  
SIDERATION A REPORT BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WHICH, TAKING

INTO ACCOUNT THE OPINION EXPRESSED BY SACEUR, SET FORTH THE MILITARY CONSEQUENCES OF THE MEASURES ENVISAGED BY ITALY. THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE, IN APPROVING THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, INVITED ME TO INFORM YOU OF THEM, AS AN OPINION UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSED BY THE ALLIANCE. PLEASE FIND THE PERTINENT TEXT (PARAGRAPHS 14-16 OF MCM-65-74) ANNEXED TO THIS LETTER.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO INFORM YOU OF THE GREAT CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN REGARD TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ITALIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS SAME MEETING, CONCERNING THE CONSIDERABLE, BUT HOPEFULLY TEMPORARY, REDUCTIONS IN PERSONNEL ENVISAGED FOR THE ITALIAN GROUND FORCES, AS WELL AS THE CHANGES OR DELAYS INTRODUCED IN THE EQUIPMENT AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS CONCERNING THE THREE SERVICES. I HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO INFORM YOU OF THE DESIRE THAT MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THESE REDUCTIONS PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES MAY ANALYZE THEIR CONSEQUENCES AND THEN EXPRESS AN OPINION ON THE IMPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM THEM FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS ASKED ME TO FORWARD ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO MOBILIZE WITH A VIEW TO MAINTAINING THE PURCHASING POWER IN REGARD TO THE CURRENT YEAR'S DEFENSE PROGRAM; THIS MEASURE REPRESENTS A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THE SOUTHERN REGION AND THROUGH IT TO THE ENTIRE ALLIANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS MOST REGRETTABLE THAT, IN SPITE OF THIS CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL EFFORT, REDUCTIONS IN THE FORCES SHOULD STILL BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE UNDER STUDY A MORE RADICAL PLAN FOR RESTRUCTURING, OVER A LONG PERIOD, THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES AND THAT MEASURES FOR COMPENSATING THE MILITARY EFFECTS OF REDUCING THE DURATION OF MILITARY SERVICE WILL BE CONSIDERED AS SOON AS THE PLAN IS FORMULATED. THE COMMITTEE HAS EXPRESSED  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 06995 181718Z

THE HOPE THAT THE MOST COMPLETE CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE FOR THE RESTRUCTURING PLANS ALSO PRIOR TO FIRM DECISIONS BEING TAKEN.

THE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED ME TO ASSERT TO YOU ITS STRONG CONVICTION THAT, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A COLLECTIVE DEFENSE SYSTEM SUCH AS NATO'S, DECISIONS CONCERNING NATIONAL PROGRAMS CANNOT BE TAKEN IN A UNILATERAL MANNER WITHOUT HAVING REPERCUSSIONS ON THE DEFENSE OF THE REGION AND EVEN ON THE ENTIRE ALLIANCE. THIS CONCEPT IS, MOREOVER, A SUBJECT THE MINISTERS WILL WISH TO TAKE UP AT THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 10 AND 11 DECEMBER NEXT.

WITH THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION,  
END TEXT. BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 11 JUN 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ATO06995  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741275/abbryzcp.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** USNATO 6493  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ITALIAN DEFENSE PLANS  
**TAGS:** MPOL, NATO, IT  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USDOCOSOUTH  
ROME  
MBFR VIENNA  
**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005